

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 27, as follows:

Currently therefore in server load balancing (and also IP multicasting) the entire internet protocol destination address and internet protocol source address need to be stored in a trie look-up table. This means that the search of a very long key may be required. Very typically, in a trie search the key is read in slices, and typically ten “slices” are required. This consumes substantial time and it is desirable to improve the performance of the switch by rendering more common reads ~~are~~unnecessary.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23, as follows:

The search process ~~is~~ summarized in Figure 6. From a start 80 to the addresses obtained from a packet, stage 81, are read. The cache is accessed, stage ~~22~~82. The cache will be populated with addresses as they are seen. If the address pair, the IP destination address and IP source address are in the cache (stage 83), then the associated data block (stored in the cache along with the address pair) is read (stage 85), the forwarding data obtained (stage 86) and the process terminated. If the address pair is not available from the cache, a look-up will be performed by means of the trie search facility (stage 84) as previously described with reference to Figure 2.